
EIGHT



BELLS

**Monthly Voice of USCG Auxiliary Flotilla 14-8 Jacksonville, Florida
Seventh Coast Guard District**

Volume XXXIV No. 2

February 2008



***Congratulations to Recent Graduates of the Auxiliary Seamanship Course (AUXSEA):
Charles Smith, Jack Holler, Al Ricker, Debbie Inlow, Neely Inlow, Chrystal Wickline and Rusty Gardner***

FLOTILLA COMMANDER	jholler1408@bellsouth.net	John F. Holler
FLOTILLA VICE COMMANDER	rivals2015@earthlink.net	Ralph V. Little
PUBLICATIONS OFFICER	cgstrong@comcast.net	Carolyn G. Strong

UPCOMING MEETINGS & OTHER ACTIVITIES

JAN	30	Instructor meeting with FSO-PE at Stellar Headquarters - 1900
FEB	05	Flotilla Meeting – 1930 – Florida Tackle & Gun Club
	08-10	Boat-A-Rama Boat Show at Prime Osborn Convention Center
	19	Flotilla Staff Meeting – 1900 – Stellar Headquarters
	20	Eight Bells Deadline – Reports due to VFC & FSO-PB
	23	TCT at Stellar Headquarters – beginning 0900
	28	Detachment meeting - 1830 – Fleming Island Library
MAR	01	About Boating Safely Program at Stellar Headquarters - 0730
	04	Flotilla Meeting – 1930 – Florida Tackle & Gun Club
	16	Annual Blessing of the Fleet – Northbank Riverfront - 1400

FROM THE FLOTILLA COMMANDER



January was full of activity for 14-8! Our Change of Watch, held at NAS JAX Yacht Club, was an evening filled with pomp and ceremony. Over 40 members, guests and retirees enjoyed the fine dinner served by CeCe's Catering.

Your Flotilla Staff Officers (FSOs) and elected officers met to formulate a calendar of events that will be available to members at our upcoming meeting. At this meeting, a Strategic Plan that focuses on the needs of the flotilla while supporting the division, district and the USCG was adopted.

An audit committee, chaired by Charlie Smith, convened to reconcile the 2007 financial data. A budget committee is also being formed to project our expenses for 2008. The 2008 budget will be presented at the March meeting.

Congratulations to the seven members who answered the request of Bob Funk, DCP 14 for assistance to USCG Sector Jacksonville by offering their expertise in Excel computer skills.

Some members have already received new certifications via on-line exams. Tips on how to use the Auxiliary on-line services will be given by Fred Cook, FSO-IS, at the February meeting. Bob Strong is leading a new class of member students studying for their Vessel Examiner certification. Instructors can meet their 2008 required training at our May meeting.

Thanks to all who have already done so much to make this year a promising success for 14-8.

Jack Holler, Flotilla Commander

A MESSAGE FROM THE VFC



The pre-Change of Watch transition time and activity since that night have left me with a few impressions. First, I'm pleased to find that, despite any of his contrary comments, the FC is organized, considerate, and puts in a lot of time for us. Second, I'm also pleased with the healthy mix of experienced hands and newer members that make up our staff. Not only do we have Auxiliary-experienced people doing tasks they know, but some are working new fields and also serve division staff roles.

Even the exuberance of staff newer to the Auxiliary is flush with work and life experience that will serve the staff and unit well. For instance, our 15 staff officers include four former Flotilla Commanders, four Division Staff Officers, and folks with accounting, IT, communications, and teaching resumes, as well as six who have boats and one with a radio facility. Despite their talent, you'll find us to have a theme of attempting to incorporate the valuable talents and input available from all our members to accomplish our Auxiliary activities. Some have already responded to help the Change of Watch succeed, serve on an audit committee and volunteer for a planned Sector exercise. Always hoping for volunteers who volunteer, we seek and need all members to participate in mission activities.

Mr. Earl Roneker, owner of the trawler, Tun Tavern, will address the February meeting on his recent transit from Buffalo, NY to Julington Creek. He can cover use of the Erie Canal and ICW, as well as hazards, navigation, solitary motoring and the value of ATONs. Try not to miss it!

Ralph Little, Flotilla Vice Commander

STAFF REPORTS

INFORMATION SERVICES:

Please join me for a very informative presentation on the Forms (manual) and eForms (electronic) reporting at our upcoming flotilla meeting. It will be a refresher for those members that have seen it before, which hopefully you will use to report your time on missions. Remember the time spent preparing for travel and actual time at each and every flotilla meeting should be recorded on Form 7029. Also the Annual Member Letters will be going out before the meeting. Please check for accuracy and notify me of any discrepancies promptly.

Fred Cooke, FSO-IS

MATERIALS:

In order to coordinate all materials requests from the USCG Auxiliary National Supply Center, I am requesting flotilla members to make their requests to a Flotilla Staff Officer who in turn can compile an order. I will have flotilla supply requisition forms at all flotilla meetings and I will collect requisitions at regular flotilla meetings, however, in the case of an immediate need; an FSO can email or fax me the item stock number and description of an item.

All requested orders will be faxed to the NCS the following day. In the case of bulk orders, the requested items will be shipped directly to the requester.

As you know, all USCG equipment issued to flotillas is required to be inventoried annually. Donna Finch-Thomas, SO-MA, has emailed the individual inventory form and an example for each member possessing USCG equipment. These forms will be forwarded under a separate email to all and are requested to be returned ASAP. This year I have been provided with a list of items.

Bob Flaige, FSO-MA
searay27@bellsouth.net
262-0335 Home & Fax

MEMBER TRAINING:

We're starting the year with Vessel Examiner (VE) training given Mondays and Thursdays by Bob Strong. You can jump into this training at any time. If your certification has lapsed, attending would be a great way to refresh your skills as a VE. Join us at Stellar Headquarters at 1900. The Division Captain has an ambitious goal for 2008 – 3,000 VSCs – let's be part of the success in meeting that goal.

Team Coordination Training (TCT) is required for all Operational members – the 8 hour class is scheduled for Saturday, February 23 at 0900 at Stellar. If you have already taken the 8 hour class, a one-hour refresher is required every year. Watch for the announcement on this at a later date.

Instructors will need to be re-certified and Jeff Blomgren has offered to teach the one-hour refresher class at the conclusion of the May 1st general business meeting – make this a priority to maintain your certification.

The flotilla is striving to gain new members during the coming year. Mentors will be needed to help new members indoctrinate. I would like to have a list of members who would be willing to step up to assist as a mentor. Please let me know if you could help out.

Claire Bailey, FSO-MT

PERSONNEL SERVICES:

To begin my tour in this position I'm going to ask for the assistance of all flotilla members in the area of recruitment. I'm sure each of us knows of someone, friend, relative or neighbor who has an interest in boating or is looking for some way to "give back" to the community. As we know, you don't have to own a boat or be physically capable of serving as a crew member to contribute in, or to, our organization. Feel free to give my name, phone number or e-mail address to potential members and I will arrange the interviews.

I would also suggest that each Flotilla Staff Officer (FSO) recruit and mentor a present member to serve as their assistant for the coming year. This will not only provide members an insight into CGAUX activities but provide a contact when the FSO is out-of-pocket. Who knows, assistants may have so much fun they will want to relieve you of your position next year allowing you to serve in another capacity.

Charles Smith, FSO-PS, 541-1660

PUBLIC AFFAIRS:

I have taken the position of Flotilla Staff Officer – Public Affairs (FSO-PA) and plan to work closely with the incoming officers of FSO-Program Visitation (PV), FSO-Public Education (PE) and FSO-Vessel Examination (VE). We have currently set dates for the About Boating Safely (ABS) 1 day program starting in March and may offer a Boating Skills & Seamanship (BS&S) course in the fall. Vessel safety checks have also been scheduled monthly (dates are still subject to approval) and a boating events brochure will be published and distributed shortly (also subject to approval.) Once these dates are set I will update our posters and get some articles written for the newspaper publications.

One article directed at encouraging new members was provided for the February edition of the Mandarin Newline. The article also served as a transition introducing myself as assuming the Public Affairs function from Ralph Little. Representing PA, Ralph also attended the start-up meeting held by Rusty Gardner at FCCJ for the boating safety video project.

Debbie Inlow, FSO-PA

PUBLIC EDUCATION:

On Saturday 1/19 I met with Bob Strong, SO-PE 14 and confirmed dates for About Boating Safely (ABS) programs for 2008 as follows: 3/1, 4/19, 6/14, 8/16. There is a fifth program to be offered in October but it has not been decided whether it will be ABS or Boating Skills & Seamanship (BS&S). I have called a meeting of all flotilla instructors for 30 January at Stellar to determine who will teach what and when. I will request Bob Flaige, FSO-MA to order materials for said programs and I will request Debbie Inlow, FSO-PA to advertise said programs. Bob Strong is going to report program dates to division. I will shortly file required intent to offer course forms.

Neely Inlow, FSO-PE

PROGRAM VISITOR / VESSEL EXAMINER:

2008 looks to be a great year for 14-8. As the FSO-PV/VE, I feel I have so much to learn and any ideas or suggestions you have are more than welcomed. Thus far, we are in the process of planning the current events for the year. Our goal is to have VE Blitzes throughout the year. These will be held at boat ramps, dealerships and marinas. Once all of the dates are confirmed, I will send out detailed information. The first blitz will be held at West Marine on Blanding Blvd on March 15th. I have spoken with the new manager and he is very excited about the event.

West Marine will again offer a 10% discount on safety equipment to boaters who receive a Vessel Safety Check. The discount coupons are available for downloading at:

<http://safetyseal.net/downloads/West-Marine-Coupon08.pdf>

A few other items that are in the works include a series of safe boating videos to be used as educational material for the general public. We hope to have the first two completed by March 15th. These will be made available on CD/DVD, podcast and streaming media. The series will air on Comcast channel 26 as well. A brochure is also in the process of being completed for 2008. This brochure will list all of the VE blitzes, Safe Boating Classes and a calendar of boating events that will occur in the Jacksonville area.

Rusty Gardner, FSO-PV/VE

PUBLICATIONS:

A big THANK YOU to Jack and Ralph and to all of the FSOs for your contributions to this edition of Eight Bells. With your continued interest and support we will again make our newsletter the best in District 7.

Carolyn Strong, FSO-PB

FLOTILLA STAFF OFFICERS

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|---------------------------|-------------------------------|
| AN-- Al Ricker | OP-- Chris Vonderheide |
| CM--Tom Sorensen | PA-- Debbie Inlow |
| CS--Paul Burns | PB-- Carolyn Strong |
| FN-- Bob Strong | PE-- Neely Inlow |
| IS--Fred Cooke | PS--Charlie Smith |
| MA-- Bob Flaige | PV-- Rusty Gardner |
| MS-- Merrill Varn | VE-- Rusty Gardner |
| MT-- Claire Bailey | SR-- Chrystal Wickline |

Jacksonville Boating Events 2008

Contributed by Rusty Gardner, FSO-PV/VE

February

8-10 - Boat -A-Rama

The Jacksonville Marine Association conducts two boat shows annually.

March

16 - Annual Blessing of the Fleet

Bring the whole family to experience the Parade of Boats blessed for the upcoming navigational season. 2pm, Northbank Riverfront. Call 904-630-3690

April

5-6 - Florida Sportsman Fishing & Boat Show

Florida Sportsman Magazine will host their twelfth annual bigger and better Fishing and Boat Show with ongoing seminars, kids' events, hands-on instruction and demonstrations. The most popular part of the event--a huge indoor tackle sale--will fill the 50,000 square foot Convention Center, with fishing boats and accessories added to the mix. Prime Osborn Convention Center, 1000 Water Street, Jacksonville. Call 772-219-7400

18-20 Jacksonville International Boat Show

Metropolitan Park and Marina <http://www.jaxboatshow.com/>

May

3-6 Sail Jacksonville

Jacksonville's downtown riverfront will come alive with the beauty of tall ships from around the world. The three-day festival will include a variety of activities that feature our scenic riverfront, including in-the-water events, such as the Parade of Sail and Pirate Battle, land-side demonstrations and events including boat building, port operations, seamanship demonstrations, multiple stages of entertainment, children's activities and performance artists.

17-23 National Safe Boating Week <http://www.uscgboating.org/>

June

12-15 Jacksonville Power Boat Poker Run <http://www.flpowerboat.com/new/index.cfm>

July

22-26 Greater Jacksonville Kingfish Tournament

The AT&T Greater Jacksonville Kingfish Tournament, held each year in July at Sisters Creek Park on the ICW, is the largest kingfish tournament in the country. In addition to the two-day general tournament, this spectacular event also includes a Junior Angler Tournament presented by Carolina Skiff & Winn-Dixie Stores, KidZone, Food Festival, live entertainment, and much, much more.

August

TBA Fall Boat Show. Dates were not available at this time.

October

25-26 Sea and Sky (NAS JAX)

This action-packed event features a dynamic sky show highlighted by the U.S. Navy Blue Angels along with other military and civilian flight teams. Other activities include live entertainment, displays, simulators, military apparatus and booths, interactive games and more!

November

29 Jacksonville Light Parade

Thanksgiving weekend wouldn't be complete without the Jacksonville Light Parade. Boats of every shape and size are imaginatively adorned with decorations that captivate senses and stimulate imaginations. Seafarers and landlubbers of all ages are sure to be dazzled by the area's largest lighted boat parade.

14-8 PHOTO ALBUM

FLOTILLA 14-8 CHANGE OF WATCH DINNER 8 JANUARY 2008

Many of our members received certificates for completion of the Auxiliary Seamanship Course (AUXSEA) and for Aids to Navigation Verifier



Jack Holler congratulated Al Ricker on receiving a score of 100% on the Auxiliary Seamanship Course (AUXSEA). Al also received certification for Aids to Navigation Verifier



Charles Smith – AUXSEA and ATON Verifier



Bob Strong – ATON Verifier



Fred Cooke, IPFC presented certificates to Jack Holler for AUXSEA and ATON Verifier



Claire Bailey, ATON Verifier



Debbie Inlow, AUXSEA and ATON Verifier

*Others receiving these awards included:
Charles Taylor - ATON Verifier; Neely Inlow,
Chrystal Wickline and Rusty Gardner AUXSEA*

Receiving Auxiliary Service Awards:

Charles Trippe – 5 Years

Jack Holler – 5 Years

Bob Funk – 10 Years

**CHANGE OF WATCH CEREMONY
NAS JAX YACHT CLUB
8 January 2008**



Ralph Little, VFC and Jack Holler, FC took the oath of office, administered by Bob Funk, DCP 14. The Prologue was read by COMO Bill Edgerton



*COMO Bill Edgerton, Ralph Little, VFC
Jack Holler, FC and Bob Funk, DCP 14*



Bob Funk, DCP 14 offers congratulations to Ralph Little (above) and Jack Holler (below)



COMO Edgerton gave us a brief history of the three Flotilla Awards: The Jimmie Anderson Award; The Andy Anderson Award and the Pete Field Award



Photos by Rusty Gardner and Carolyn Strong



Rusty Gardner was the proud recipient of the Jimmie Anderson Award (AKA the "Boner" Award) for his inept demonstration of Seamanship in searching all day to find the Atlantic Ocean.



Bob Funk, DCP and member of 14-8 received the Pete Field Award for Operations for the year 2007



Bob Funk, DCP thanked Auxiliary members, new and past Staff Officers for their volunteerism, support and service. He challenged us to double our efforts in boating safety and Homeland Security in support of the Coast Guard.

Fred Cooke presented The Andy Anderson Award to Jack Holler for all of the members of Flotilla 14-8



Fred Cooke received a Past Flotilla Commander's plaque from Jack



Jack presented the Civic Award to Bryan Cook and the Stellar Group for allowing us to use their training room for our classes



Fred passed the gavel to Jack



Bryan Cook of the Stellar Group gave his thanks to the Coast Guard Auxiliary

National Safe Boating Campaign

NEWS

***Boat Smart.
Boat Safe.
Wear It!***

DID YOU KNOW?...

By Harriet Howard, DVC-AS

Who invented the life preserver? Did you say Stearns or Mustang? No way! It was Leonardo da Vinci! According to the Da Vinci Experience and the Museum of Leonardo da Vinci of Florence, Italy, da Vinci's concept was a life ring that was made of waterproof leather and could be filled with air to increase its volume and buoyancy.

"Da Vinci's idea for preserving life at sea is as valid today as it was in Italy in the 15th century." In this, the 21st century, we have a wide range of life preservers (personal flotation devices) to choose from, including the life ring, a throwable device. As we well know, no life preserver can save a life unless it is worn.



Once again, in a continuing effort to urge recreational boaters to "Wear It!," the Coast Guard and the Coast Guard Auxiliary join hands with the National Safe Boating Council and other marine organizations in a year-round boating safety campaign. The National Safe Boating Council produces the campaign, which is funded in part from the Sport Fish Restoration and Boating (Wallop-Breaux) Trust Fund "Wear It!" continues to be the campaign slogan. The Coast Guard and Auxiliary ask all boat owners and operators to help reduce boating fatalities by wearing a life jacket out on the water.

National Safe Boating Week is the high point of each year's campaign. This year the event is May 17-23. Public Affairs Officers, now is the time to update your list of media contacts and also decide what materials you will need for the campaign.

Da Vinci was right on track 600 years ago. Take a tip from Leonardo and "Wear It!"



FLOTILLA 14-8
GENERAL BUSINESS MEETING
Tuesday 06 February 2008 beginning at 1930
FLORIDA TACKLE AND GUN CLUB
9010 San Jose Blvd

Guest Speaker: Mr. Earl Roneker, owner of the trawler *Tun Tavern*, will address the February meeting on his recent transit from Buffalo, NY to Julington Creek

Training Topic: A very informative presentation on Forms (manual) and eForms (electronic) reporting by Fred Cooke, FSO-IS

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TCT Training

Bob Pape will conduct a Team Coordination Training (TCT) training class on February 23, 2008 at the Stellar Headquarters Building. This class is required for all Operational members and will be conducted from 8:30 am until it is complete. Students are advised to bring a lunch, drinks or snacks because the class will intense and continuous. Dress is civilian casual. Team Coordination Training (TCT) is required in order to obtain certification in any of the Operational disciplines. If you are interested in being Coxswain, Boat Crew, Watchstander, Pilot, Air Crew, you will need to attend this training. To maintain your certification the one-hour refresher is required in subsequent years. Let me know if you have any questions.

Claire Bailey, FSO-MT



8 IS GREAT !

EIGHT BELLS is published at no expense to the government. Cost of its publication is borne by the dues paying members of Flotilla 14-8 of the 7th District U.S. Coast Guard.

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